



Special Report



How Shelby Township fought the GLWA water monopoly

Following 2020 GLWA mandates, Shelby Township enacted plan to break GLWA hold over township finances, halt rate increases.



Macomb County's
Lowest-cost, full-service
Community

TOWNSHIP SUCCESSFULLY STABILIZES RATES, NO INCREASES FOR 2021, 2022, 2023 AND ANTICIPATED 0% INCREASE FOR 2024.

In fewer than 12 months, Shelby Township added a 3.5 million-gallon water reservoir to the community's toolbox to stabilize local water rates. The project cost was \$14,079,875, paid in full in cash with no debt and no bonding. Savings in GLWA wholesale costs result in a payback on the investment within five years.



June 22, 2021

The Board of Trustees broke ground on the 3.5 million-gallon water reservoir facility.



Aug. 28, 2021

Crews pour the concrete base for the water reservoir.



Sept. 16, 2021

Contractors install the flooring structure for the 3.5 million-gallon storage tank.



Oct. 11, 2021

Roof panels are put in place, enclosing the 3.5 million-gallon water storage tank.



Jan. 17, 2022

Crews prep seven 250-horsepower pumps for operation.



March 1, 2022

Shelby Township put the 3.5 million-gallon reservoir into operation

NO WATER RATE INCREASES FOR 2021, 2022, 2023 AND ANTICIPATED 0% FOR 2024.



The tank is filled nightly and pumped daily to ensure water quality.



State-of-the-art technology provides remote operation and 24-hour surveillance.



Without reservoir, GLWA rates would have increased an average of 2.75% annually.



Seven 250-horsepower pumps empty the tank daily into the system during peak hours.



October 2022 negotiations with GLWA lowered max day and peak hour factors.



The prepurchase of \$2 million in long lead items kept the project on schedule.



The tank can be filled with 2.5 million gallons in 4.5 hours by line pressure during non-peak hours.

Following the Aug. 13, 2022 water main break on a GLWA 120-inch transmission line, Shelby Township staff and officials sprang to help guide the community through ensuing boil water advisories and uncertainty. Crews from the Shelby Township DPW maintained stable water pressure to meet all essential water uses throughout the incident.

Integral to the township's ability to maintain water pressure throughout the emergency was the new 3.5 million-gallon water reservoir and pump facility. The reservoir provided nearly 7 million gallons daily to offset demand surges during the GLWA emergency and ensure Shelby Township did not impact the emergency supply.



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Dear Shelby Township neighbors:

A famous quote by Frank Lloyd Wright says, "I know the price of success: dedication, hard work and an unremitting devotion to the things you want to see happen." In 2022, Shelby Township achieved success as we put the 3.5 million-gallon water reservoir into operation.

In July 2020, Shelby Township exceeded the contracted allowable peak water usage. It forced our hand into action to avoid a possible 13% increase in our resident's water rates from Great Lakes Water Authority. The township's Department of Public Works and Board of Trustees decided the best course of action was to build a water reservoir to store enough water to mitigate future surges in peak water demand. With the foresight to prepurchase necessary water mains and long lead components, the township could ward off supply chain issues and finished the construction in remarkable time. It was vital to have the reservoir in operation before the irrigation season began. We met that goal thanks to the coordination of the township, the engineers and the contractors.

We get great pleasure in this industry when we say, "Our project came in on time, under budget, with no bonding required." March 1, 2022, was an exciting day for the township as we put the 3.5 million-gallon reservoir into operation. Since that day, we have filled the reservoir every night to the required amount, and every morning we discharge water during the highest demand. In the summer, we fill the reservoir to a higher capacity to offset peak demands, primarily due to irrigation. Shelby Township's experienced DPW crew monitors the operations daily to determine capacities. This practice avoids impacts on GLWA's peak usage and stabilizes local water rates.

GLWA required the reservoir to operate for a full year to prove its effectiveness before adjusting the water rates. To ensure compliance with our contracted allowances during this first year, GLWA compelled us to enact a mandatory irrigation ban to shift outside irrigation use between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. This reservoir, along with the mandatory irrigation ban, proved its worth.

The DPW went into negotiations with GLWA in October of 2022 and came out with goals being met. Throughout this process, Shelby Township was able to maintain zero water rate increases for 2021, 2022 and 2023 again, avoiding an inevitable 13% increase on the horizon. Rates from GLWA would have increased an average of 2.75% across the board, but we were able to mitigate that increase for the last three years and hold our rates at a zero percent increase. As a result, we aim to minimize future water rate increases.

Thank you to the residents and businesses who complied with the mandatory irrigation ordinance, and we ask for continued support. We saw an immediate shift in the peak-hour usage due to those efforts and appreciate future efforts. For ways to continue to support this effort, visit shelbytpw.org/dpw. We want to recognize the hard work and actions of the Board of Trustees, the Department of Public Works, the engineers and the contractors for devoting countless hours and partnering with us to make this reservoir a success.

Sincerely & respectfully,

David G. Miller II
 Shelby Township Public Works Director

Rick Stathakis
 Supervisor

Stanley T. Grot
 Clerk

James Carabelli
 Treasurer

Lisa Casali
 Trustee

Lucia Di Cicco
 Trustee

John Vermeulen
 Trustee

Vince Viviano
 Trustee

NO WATER RATE INCREASES FOR 2021, 2022, 2023 AND ANTICIPATED 0% FOR 2024.

	Great Lakes Water Authority Wholesale water rate increase for Shelby Township	Shelby Township water rate increase for DPW customers	Water rate reflecting GLWA rate increases	Actual Shelby Township water rate	Sample bill with GLWA increases	Sample bill with actual Shelby Township rates	Resident sample water bill savings
2020	-	-	4.286	4.286	\$1,371.52	\$1,371.52	-
2021	3.0 percent	0 percent	4.415	4.286	\$1,412.67	\$1,371.52	\$41.15
2022	1.4 percent	0 percent	4.479	4.286	\$1,433.15	\$1,371.52	\$61.63
2023	3.4 percent	0 percent	4.630	4.286	\$1,481.73	\$1,371.52	\$110.21
2024 (Forecasted)	13.0 percent	0 percent	5.232	4.286	\$1,674.35	\$1,371.52	\$302.83
						Total:	\$515.82

Example bill is based on water only using 30 CCF per quarter for domestic use and 100 CCF for 2 quarters for irrigation use.
 CCF = 100 cubic feet = 748 gallons of water

WITHOUT RESERVOIR, GLWA RATES WOULD HAVE INCREASED AN AVERAGE OF 2.75% ANNUALLY.

Solid Waste & Recycling Committee Waste Disposal Guide

To serve Shelby Township citizens and the Board of Trustees in the areas of solid waste and recycling.

Shelby Township waste collection services for single-family residences is contracted to GFL Environmental. The contract with GFL Environmental is negotiated by the Board of Trustees and the township's Solid Waste and Recycling Committee. Call GFL Environmental at 586-210-0754 or visit gflenv.com.

Trash Tips for GFL Customers

- Yard waste begins the first week of April and ends the second week in December.
- Cardboard boxes need to be flattened and put in your recycling bin or bound and placed next to your container.
- Mattresses and box springs must be wrapped in plastic before you put them curbside.
- Large items can be placed curbside on your pickup day.
- Place all trash at the curb by 7 a.m. or the night before your pickup day.
- GFL Observed Holidays: New Year's Day; Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Thanksgiving; Christmas Day.

Community Shred Day

Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023
8 AM - 12 PM
River Bends Park
5700 22 Mile Road
Enter off 22 Mile Road

The Shelby Township Police Department Community Shred Day allows residents and businesses to securely destroy documents for another level of protection against identity theft and financial fraud. After shredding, we recycle all documents and paper bags. The 2023 Community Shred Day takes place 8 a.m.-noon Oct. 21 at River Bends Park at 5700 22 Mile Road. Visit shelbytownshippolice.org for more information.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day for GFL Customers

Saturday, April 27, 2024
9 AM-2 PM
River Bends Park
5700 22 Mile Road
Enter off 22 Mile Road

ITEMS ACCEPTED: fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, propane cylinders, household and car batteries, tube and compact fluorescent light bulbs, pesticides, herbicides, used motor oil, gasoline, kerosene, antifreeze, household cleaners, paint thinner, deck sealer, cooking oil, adhesives, aerosol cans, pool chlorine, mercury containing devices, and oil-based as well as latex paints and stains. Sharps will be accepted only in sealed coffee cans or rigid plastic containers. Medications will be collected as part of the hazardous waste event. Pills and patches, non-controlled and controlled, must be removed from bottles and placed in a clear plastic zip lock bag. Keep the bag of pills handy to hand to a police officer at the collection site. Open to Shelby Township residents serviced by GFL Environmental only.

Used eyeglasses will be collected for the Shelby Lions Club – please have these handy to hand to a volunteer.

ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED: ANY TYPE OF ELECTRONICS, ammunition, liquid medications, tires, trash, appliances, medical or business waste.

Electronics Recycling for GFL Customers

Saturday, October 14, 2023
9 AM - 1 PM

River Bends Park
5700 22 Mile Road
Enter off 22 Mile Road

Items accepted: all televisions, monitors, computers, laptops, printers, fax machines, copier combos, VCRs, keyboards, mice, DVD & CD players, microwaves, stereos, speakers, cables, computer parts, telephones, cell phones, game consoles, handheld electronics, vacuums, small appliances and holiday lights.

No hazardous waste or batteries will be accepted at the Electronics Recycling Collection event.

Open to Shelby Township residents serviced by GFL Environmental only.



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"Shelby Township DPW Special Report" is published by the Shelby Township Community Relations Department

Charter Township of Shelby, Macomb County, MI

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